

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism comprising:

front and rear stays (2a, 2b) that are L-shaped, inverted L-shaped or  
~~transversal~~ transverse T-shaped, rotatably supported on side frames (5) ~~about~~ around  
longitudinal shafts (21); and

a seat plate (11) supported by cross bars (22) of the front and rear stays, ~~the~~  
~~front with tip~~ ends of said cross bars and the seat plate ~~are being~~ connected rotatably  
freely ~~about the~~ around a first axis shaft (62) running in front and rear directions and  
~~about the~~ around a second axis shaft (61), which is parallel to ~~the above~~ one of said  
longitudinal shaft shafts, in positions closer to ~~the~~ a side edge (12)[,] which is farther  
from the side ~~frame~~ frames of the seat plate.

**Claim 2 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein ~~comprising the~~ side frames (5) are located at left and right sides of a seat  
(1)[[;]], and ~~a~~ the seat plate (11) is split into left and right parts[[;]], wherein the left  
and right parts of the seat plate are mounted ~~respectively~~ on the respective sides of the  
side frames (5) ~~located at respective sides with the mechanism contained in claim 1.~~

**Claim 3 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in ~~claims~~  
claim 1 or 2, wherein the longitudinal shafts (21) of the stays (2a, 2b) ~~are~~ is tilted  
forward and are rotatably supported on the side frames (5).

**Claim 4 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in ~~claims~~  
claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the ~~front~~ tip ends of the cross bars (22) and the seat plate (11)  
are connected by a synchronous rotating mechanism (6) which connects the rotating  
angle ~~about~~ around the first axis shaft (62) running in the front and rear directions and  
~~that~~ the rotating angle around ~~about~~ the second axis shaft (61) parallel to one of the  
longitudinal shaft shafts at a relationship of 1:1.

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in ~~claims~~  
~~claim 1 or 2, wherein further~~ comprising a backrest (3), wherein the backrest is  
mounted on the rear stays (2b).

**Claim 6 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 2,  
~~wherein further~~ comprising a backrest (3), wherein the backrest (3) is mounted on  
either one of the left and right rear stays (2b).

**Claim 7 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 2,  
Further comprising a footrest (4) which is supported for moving back and forth,  
wherein the footrest (4) is connected to a front end of a joining rod (42) which extends  
beneath the seat from ~~the a~~ lower end of the front stays (2a) via a link or a long hole  
(41) extending in left and right directions.

**Claim 8 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 7,  
wherein the footrest (4) comprises a knee pushing plate (43) extending upward from  
~~its a front edge portion of the footrest~~.

**Claim 9 (Currently Amended):** A wheelchair, comprising: a planar U-shaped or  
M-shaped frame (50), which connects left and right side frames 5 at ~~the a~~ front of ~~the~~  
an occupant's lower limbs, with the occupant's backside including lower limbs open;  
a seat (1) supported by the frame; a space (55) of the side frames with the rear side  
open to allow an edge of a bed to be inserted from backside to underneath of the seat;  
~~wherein comprising~~ a seat plate (11) split from the center into left and right parts;  
stays (2a, 2b) supporting the left and right parts of the seat plates with respective side  
frames (5), the left and right parts of the seat plate ~~are being~~ folded toward a side of  
the occupant and toward ~~a~~ an upper rear direction with the surface of the seat plate  
~~kept turned~~ upright, by means of their rotations ~~about~~ around support shafts (21) of  
the stays.

**Claim 10 (Currently Amended):** A wheelchair as claimed in claim 9, ~~wherein~~  
further comprising a front wheel (81) of large diameter having a hand rim and  
supported pivotably on the side frames (5)[[;]], and a rear wheel (82) of small  
diameter swinging about around a vertical support shaft to change direction.

**Claim 11 (Currently Amended):** A wheelchair as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 9 ~~or~~ 10,  
further comprising a support table (32) supporting an upper body of the occupant[[;]],  
an ascend drive or ascend exerting device (74) for the support table[[;]], linkage  
mechanisms (24, 79) having an engaging-disengaging means (75) for folding the seat  
plate (11) when ascending and unfolding the seat plate when descending[[;]], and a  
lock device (76) for maintaining the seat plate (11) ~~at~~ in a folded state.

**Claim 12 (New):** A wheelchair as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a support  
table supporting an upper body of the occupant, an ascend drive or ascend exerting  
device for the support table, linkage mechanisms having an engaging-disengaging  
means for folding the seat plate when ascending and unfolding the seat plate when  
descending, and a lock device for maintaining the seat plate in a folded state.